

1.(Previously Presented) A blow out preventer for operating between a spear of a tubular gripping tool and a tubular gripped by the tool, the blow out preventer comprising:

an expandable seal carried on the spear and expandable to seal between the spear and the tubular's inner wall, the expandable seal being operable as a back up to a primary seal operable between the spear and the tubular's inner wall.

2.(Previously Presented) The blow out preventer of claim 1 wherein the expandable seal is a passive seal operable by pressure differential about the seal.

23.(Previously Presented) The blow out preventer of claim 2 wherein the expandable seal is a seal cup.

34. (Currently Amended) The blow out preventer of claim 2 wherein the expandable seal is positioned in a backup position on the spear relative to the primary seal.

45.(Currently Amended) The blow out preventer of claim 1 wherein the expandable seal is selectively operable by other than normal operational fluid pressure in the tubular to create a seal between the spear and the tubular's inner wall.

56. (Currently Amended) The blow out preventer of claim 5 further comprising a drive system to expand the expandable seal.

67.(Currently Amended)The blow out preventer of claim 5 wherein the drive system includes hydraulics.

78.(Currently Amended) The blow out preventer of claim 5 wherein the expandable seal is extrudable by pressure applied by a drive system.

89.(Currently Amended) A tubular gripping clamp for gripping an oilfield tubular, the tubular gripping clamp comprising:

a spear sized to extend into the bore of a tubular to be gripped;

gripping means drivable to engage the tubular to be gripped; and

a primary seal about the spear to create a seal between the spear and the inner wall of the tubular, the primary seal being expandable in response to at least operationally generated fluid pressure differential in the tubular; and

a secondary seal about the spear selectively operable to create a seal between the spear and the inner wall of the tubular.

910.(Currently Amended) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 9 wherein the clamp is an external-type clamp.

1011.(Currently Amended)The tubular gripping clamp of claim 9 wherein the clamp is an internal-type clamp.

~~11~~12. (Currently Amended) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 9 wherein the expandable seal is selectively operable by other than normal operational fluid pressure in the tubular to create a seal between the spear and the tubular's inner wall.

~~12~~13. (Currently Amended) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 12 further comprising a drive system to expand the secondary seal.

~~13~~14. (Currently Amended) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 12 wherein the secondary seal is extrudable by pressure applied by a drive system.

~~14~~15. (Currently Amended) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 12 wherein the drive system includes a feature operable based on hydraulics.

~~15~~16. (Currently Amended) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 15 further comprising a mud flow path through the spear and hydraulic pressure from the mud flow path acts on the drive system.

~~16~~17. (Currently Amended) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 15 further comprising:
a mud flow path through the spear;
a fluid communication conduit to communicate fluid pressure from the mud flow path and the drive system; and
a control for creating a hydraulic pressure in the mud flow path capable of actuating the drive system to expand the secondary seal.

~~1718.~~ (Currently Amended) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 15 wherein hydraulic pressure independent from a mud flow path through the spear is used to operate the drive system.

~~1819.~~ (Currently Amended) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 9 further comprising:
a mud flow path through the spear; and
a hydraulically actuated drive system for causing expansion of the secondary seal, the drive system including a valve in the mud flow path sealable to create fluid pressure in the mud flow path sufficient to actuate the drive system.

~~1920.~~ (Currently Amended) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 19 wherein the valve includes a seat sealable by a launchable device sealable on the seat.

~~2021.~~ (Currently Amended) A blow out preventer assembly for operating between a tubular gripping tool and a tubular gripped by the tool, the blow out preventer assembly comprising:
an expandable seal carried on the tubular gripping tool and expandable to seal between the tool and the tubular's inner wall; and
a drive system for selectively driving the expansion of the expandable seal.

~~2122.~~ (Currently Amended) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 21 wherein the drive system is a hydraulic drive system.

~~2223.~~ (Currently Amended) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 22 wherein the hydraulic drive system is operable by drilling mud.

2324. (Currently Amended) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 22 wherein the hydraulic drive system operates based on hydraulic pressure from a mud flow path through the tool.

2425. (Currently Amended) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 22 wherein hydraulic pressure independent from a mud flow path through the tool is used to operate the drive system.

2526. (Currently Amended) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 22 wherein mud pressure is used to inflate the seal.

2627. (Currently Amended) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 22 wherein the expandable seal includes an extrudable ring packer and the hydraulic drive system includes a fixed retainer ring on one side of the ring packer and a piston ring on the opposite side of the ring packer.

2728. (Currently Amended) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 27 wherein the piston ring is secured by a shear pin selected to shear, to permit movement of the piston ring, at fluid pressures in excess of a selected fluid pressure.

2829. (Currently Amended) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 27 further comprising a ratchet arrangement to lock the piston ring in its position, ~~causing expansion of the~~

2930. (Currently Amended) A method for shutting in a well while a tubular gripping tool remains positioned in the upper end of a tubular string extending into the well, the method comprising:

providing an expandable seal about a spear of the tubular gripping tool that can be expanded selectively to seal between the spear and the inner diameter of a tubular and selectively expanding the seal to shut in the well.

3031. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2930 wherein the seal is selectively expanded as a back up to a primary passive seal on the spear.

3132. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2930 wherein the seal is selectively expanded after a primary passive seal on the spear has failed.

3233. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2930 wherein the seal is selectively expanded during a well incident when an attempt to remove the tubular gripping tool from an end of a tubular has failed.

3334. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2930 wherein the expandable seal can be expanded selectively by hydraulics.

3435. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2930 further comprising increasing fluid pressure in a mud flow path through the tool to selectively expand the seal.

3536. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3435 wherein a sealing device is launched through the mud flow path to seal against a seat in the mud flow path to cause an increase in fluid pressure.